THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Report was submitted to the Prime Minister on 11th November, 1999.

(d) and (e) The directions of the Supreme Court of India in its judgement of 21st March, 2002 in All India Judges' Association and others Vs. Union of India and others, *inter-alia*, contains deadlines on which the directions are to be complied with both by the Central Government for implementation in the Union territories and the respective State Governments/High Courts for implementation in the States.

The Apex Court has further directed that the States as well as the Union of India shall submit their compliance report by 30th September, 2002 and any clarification that may be required in respect of any matter arising out of the decision will be sought only from the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Extension of waterways-III

4171. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the Waterways-III from Kottappuram upto Kasergod in North and from Kollam upto Kovalam in South; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A techno-economic feasibility study for extension of national waterway No. III from Kottappuram to Kasergod in North and from Kollam to Kovalam in South has been carried out which has shown that development of these stretches is viable. Declaration and subsequent development would be subject to the availability of resources.

Privatisation of SCI

4172. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is likely to go in for privatization;

(b) if so, whether the SCI paid Rs. 255 crore to Government which will make it completely free of Government loans;

(c) whether with this, the SCI would be able to get 50 of its vessels released from a mortgage to Government; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for privatisation of SCI is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) SCI will be able to get all its vessels released from Government mortgage.

(d) The Government has already decided to privatise SCI.

Development of National Waterways

†4173. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Waterways can be developed in the coastal areas of the river Ganges and Brahmaputra and Kerala;

(b) if so, the length upto which these waterways can be developed and the places between which the same can be developed; and

(c) the main commodities and their quantity which are likely to be transported every year through these waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad for a length of 1620 Kms, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya for a length of 891 Kms and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals for a length of 205 Kms. have already been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.